

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

ISO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SOE-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NASA-01

NSAE-00 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15

USIA-06 (ISO) W

-----098773 030429Z /75

R 021701Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8505

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 03374

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, SALT, PEPR, UR, ET, SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTARY ATTACKS SALT-HORN LINKAGE

SUMMARY: BOTH IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA POLITICAL COMMENTATORS

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HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REPUDIATE WHAT THEY SEE AS OFFICIAL U.S.

EFFORTS TO MAKE DIRECT POLITICAL LINKAGE BETWEEN SALT

AND EVENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. IZVESTIYA CARRIES AN ARTICLE ON MARCH 1 BY ITS

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR A. BOVIN WHICH QUOTES BOTH DEPT.

STATEMENT AND PARIS NEWSPAPER FIGARO TO ARGUE THAT THE

U.S. HAS ESTABLISHED LINKAGE BETWEEN SALT NEGOTIATIONS AND SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA. THIS LATTER POLICY IS DESCRIBED AS RENDERING AID TO A VICTIM OF AGGRESSION AND AS A "PRINCIPLED POLICY". ACCUSING STATE DEPARTMENT OF DISTORTING THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS, BOVIN LAMENTS THE FACT THAT SOME PEOPLE WANT TO MAKE SALT DEPENDENT UPON A "LOCAL SITUATION" AND LABELS THIS POLICY AS "BANKRUPTCY".

2. PRAVDA POLITICAL OBSERVER G. RATIANI ON MARCH 2 DECRIES THE LINKAGE HE CLAIMS IS TAKING PLACE IN THE U.S. FOLLOWING THIS RATIANI SARCASTICALLY QUOTES NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI ON THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. RATIANI THEN CONCLUDES BY CONDEMNING "NEW MANEUVERS BY INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES" TO FORM LINKAGE. THOSE, HE WRITES, WHO DELAY OR BLOCK SALT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A NEW STAGE IN THE ARMS RACE, WHICH CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE THE "THREAT OF A NUCLEAR-ROCKET CATASTROPHE".

3. COMMENT: THESE TWO COLUMNS BRING THE SOVIETS A HALF STEP SHORT OF DIRECTLY CHARGING OFFICIAL U.S. LINKAGE AND SEEK TO LAY ALL THE BLAME AT THE U.S. DOOR FOR FURTHER DELAY IN SALT. THE VEHEMENCE OF SOVIET RHETORIC IN THESE ARTICLES IS NOTEWORTHY. CLEARLY THE SOVIETS DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO DESIRABLE GOALS (SALT AND PREEMINENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA). MATLOCK
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TAGS: PARM, PBOR, PEPR, SOPN, UR, ET, SO
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